

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PORTISHEAD.ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR  
THE YEAR 1944.

Church Cottage,  
Church Rd. North,  
Portishead.

9th August, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Portishead Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report. The health of the district has maintained its high average this year and throughout the War years.

Estimated Population. 3,804  
Area. 911 acres.  
Penny Rate. £124. 5s. 5d.

1. BIRTH AND DEATH RATE.

	<u>Portishead.</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>
Births.	19.0	17.6
Deaths.	14.3	11.6

2. MATERNAL AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Maternal Deaths. = Nil  
Infants under one year. = Two

In the County M.O.H.'s. report last year, the rates of Infantile Mortality for the last ten years were given. Portishead was the lowest of all Urban and Rural Districts.

3. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	<u>Cases.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	11	nil	3
Diphtheria.	1	nil	1 (Army)
Measles.	1	nil	
Whooping Cough.	13	nil	
Pneumonia.	2	one	

4. TUBERCULOSIS.

	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Respiratory.	6	1
Non-Respiratory.	1	nil

With the closing of the First Aid Post, the local clinic for examination was also closed. The number of cases which had been seen at Portishead was very small. The Clinic is held twice a month at Clevedon.

5. INFANT WELFARE.

Meets every second Friday. Attendance of Mothers and Children is fairly good. The present quarters are most unsuitable and it is hoped that some better arrangement can be made for this important work.

6. NURSING.

The Queen's Nurses do the Urban District and surrounding district. Their work of Maternity and General Nursing has been most satisfactory. The Nursing Association is a voluntary body and needs financial support from everybody.

During the War years the First Aid Post has helped by dealing with accidents, dressings and assisting in minor operations. When the Post was closed in November, the nurses volunteered to carry on a similar service, if suitable premises could be found. Temporary premises are at present in the Council Yard and it is hoped to obtain a hut and convert it to more suitable quarters. Over 3,000 cases were dealt with during the year. The whole Post is staffed by volunteers. The thanks of the district are due to all those helping this excellent work.

7. AMBULANCES.

Two war-time St. Johns Ambulance Brigade Ambulances are available. When C.D. ceased it became very difficult to provide drivers for a 24 hour duty. They have, nevertheless, provided an excellent service and are much called on.

8. WATER SUPPLY.

Is adequate in amount. During the last few years the water has become progressively harder. The Council has been in communication with the Water Company and Ministry of Health to find means of obtaining a softer water.

Samples taken during the year have all been free from contamination.

9. MILK.

Samples of milk were obtained by the Sanitary Inspector and submitted to the County Analyst, and in all cases the results were satisfactory.

10. HOUSING.

The Council is well aware of the urgency of this. Houses are being used which should be condemned and there are not enough houses for the people requiring them. Nothing can be allowed to interfere with the provision of more accommodation.

11. CIVIL DEFENCE.

In November the Civil Defence in the district was closed down. I think it is fitting that I should record the work done by them. As Medical Officer of Health, I was responsible for the training and running of the First Aid Post and First Aid Parties. Before the War the St. Johns Ambulance Brigade and Red Cross put all their members under A.R.P. training as volunteers, they and many others most enthusiastically trained for what might happen. As both services were on duty for 24 hours it soon became evident that full time workers would have to be used as well as part-time. When the "real-thing" came everyone did their job and did it well. We were fortunate that there were not larger casualties on several occasions. When bombing ceased the members still kept up their training and standing-by, and were always ready for action.

I think our thanks are due to all those members of the First Aid Parties and First Aid Post.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant.

J. E. McCormick.

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1945.